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places shows a somewhat keener sense of historical perspective, a more critical use of material, and a fuller appreciation of the value of intimate detail than is commonly the case with writers of such histories. On the other hand, it would seem that a more thoroughgoing search for, and exhaustive investigation of, local material, both public and private, would have resulted in a fuller treatment of certain phases of the subject at least. It is to be regretted that more attention was not paid, for instance, to the causes, progress, and influence of the notable influx of Scandinavians, and of the local aspects of the career of the most noted resident of the region, Senator Knute Nelson.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

The Story of Minnesota. By E. DUDLEY PARSONS, instructor in English, West High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota. (New York, etc., American Book Company, 1916. 336 p. Illustrated)

Our Minnesota; a History for Children. By HESTER MCLEAN POLLOCK, teacher of history and civics in the St. Paul high schools. (New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, 1917. xiii, 373 p. Illustrated)

These volumes, written especially for children, supply a need, which has for a long time been apparent, of a textbook on the history of Minnesota suitable for use in the grade departments of the public schools of the state. *The Story of Minnesota* is similar in form to other textbooks of this character, each chapter having its material arranged under black-letter topical headings and concluding with the customary summary, suggestive questions, and references to sources. In such texts the material must of necessity be treated in the briefest manner possible. Mr. Parsons, by a judicious selection of topics and by the use of a moderate amount of detail, has succeeded in placing before his young readers in satisfactory form the history of the early periods of exploration, settlement, and political organization. He devotes the latter half of the book to an account of the rapid development of the natural resources of the state, of its growth in population, of its advance along economic, social, and educational lines, of the men who have wisely and capably directed

and contributed to this development, and of the part which the state has played in the larger life of the nation. Comprehensive summaries of the machinery of local and state government and a discussion of the duties of citizens form the concluding chapters of the book.

The usefulness of Mr. Parsons' book is greatly lessened, however, by numerous errors and questionable statements which it contains. Most of the errors are due to a carelessness which is quite inexcusable in one who purposes to write history. The painting "Father Hennepin Discovering St. Anthony Falls," reproduced on page 24, hangs in the governor's reception room of the capitol rather than in the historical library; and the painting given on page 116 is not "owned by the Minnesota Historical Society," nor was it executed by "Frank B. Mayer," but by Frank G. Millet. The *Minnesota Historical Collections* are constantly referred to as the "*Minnesota Historical Society Papers*," and the Northwest Company is always called the "Northwestern Fur Company." Critical historians now consider it quite unlikely that Carver ascended the Minnesota "as far as Big Stone Lake" (p. 35); and Carver does not make any reference "in his journal" to "a grant of land which two Indian chiefs made in his favor" (p. 36). The first mention of the grant appeared in Dr. Lettson's introduction to the third London edition (1781) of Carver's *Travels through the Interior Parts of North America*, brought out after Carver's death. On page 47 Pike is quoted as saying that "1,000,000 acres . . . was obtained [by the treaty with the Indians in 1805] for presents of the value of two hundred dollars . . . and a promise binding the Senate to pay two thousand dollars." This statement does not appear in this form either in Pike's journal or in his letter to General Wilkinson. His estimate of the number of acres acquired was 100,000, and the amount to be paid by the United States was left blank in the original articles. The Senate, ratifying the treaty in 1808, stipulated that the amount should be two thousand dollars. Mr. Parsons' ideas of geography are somewhat confused when he declares on page 41, "Beyond [west of the Mississippi] was Louisiana, stretching from the Rainy River to the Gulf of Mexico." His statement on page 60 that if a person had "been born in eastern Minnesota in 1783, he would have been under

the rule of France, England, and the United States . . . before his threescore years and ten had been completed" is incorrect, since France did not have title to any land in Minnesota east of the Mississippi after 1763. One can not fail to wonder from what source Mr. Parsons took his population statistics for 1849 (p. 102). His items do not in any particular agree with those of the census of 1849 as given in the *Council Journal* for 1849 (p. 183). He assigns to St. Paul, for instance, a population of 2,920, whereas the census count shows that the town contained 840 persons. Dakota County is omitted from the list of counties established by the first territorial legislature of 1849 (p. 102). These and many other misstatements should be corrected in a second edition.

Mr. Parsons has made his text more interesting and instructive by the use of numerous illustrations. Those which are reproductions from photographs are valuable adjuncts. Drawings for a work of this character, however, unless executed by one who is well acquainted with the period, are likely to contain anachronisms which render them valueless. Some of those which are found in Mr. Parsons' book are open to this criticism and might well have been omitted, particularly the one representing "Radisson and Groseilliers with the Indians"—all mounted on horses! The lists of references at the close of the chapters would be of more service if they contained more definite information about publishers, date and place of publication, and number of pages.

Our Minnesota, while undeniably written for children, does not follow the conventional form of textbooks. The narrative is rather long; and it is so encumbered with a mass of details as to be burdensome and confusing. The propriety of devoting, in a school history, forty-four pages to an account of the Sioux and Chippewa Indians, twenty-four pages to the development of transportation facilities, and eighteen pages to the various exploratory expeditions to the upper Mississippi and lake region may well be questioned. The material of the book is not organized in accordance with a definite, well-ordered plan, and there is a noticeable lack of coherence and unity. Very little regard has been paid to the chronology of events—a method of treatment which naturally results in needless repetition. An account of the various treaties by which the Indians surrendered to the

government their title to lands within the territory precedes the chapter (6) dealing with the exploration period. The various exploratory expeditions to the Mississippi from the time of De Soto to the days of Schoolcraft are described in chapter 14, although much of the same material appears in chapter 6. A chapter devoted to the Civil War and to the Sioux outbreak is placed between chapters dealing with agricultural development and the history of transportation respectively, both phases of the state's history being traced from the earliest days to the present time. Miss Pollock has given us therefore not a connected history of Minnesota, but a series of sketches.

No footnote references to sources are given, the author contenting herself with a statement in the preface that "the sources which have been used are to be found largely in the diaries and papers of the Minnesota Historical Society, reliance put largely upon the statements of those who helped to make the history here related." The book is not entirely free from errors. Thomas Jefferson did not "make" the Ordinance of 1787 (p. 59). It was Schoolcraft and not Boutwell "who named Lake Itasca" (p. 103). When Henry H. Sibley came to Mendota, he made the trip on horseback from Prairie du Chien instead of from Traverse des Sioux, and he had the distinction of being a partner in the American Fur Company rather than one of its agents (p. 139). The statement (p. 159) that "when the territory began, there were only four counties" is not correct; the first territorial legislature created nine counties, three of which were declared to be organized counties. John Hawkins had played his part in the slave trade and gone the way of all bold seamen long before 1619 (p. 205).

Our Minnesota has, however, admirable qualities which go a long way toward offsetting these defects. Its author has been for many years an enthusiastic lover of Minnesota and its history. She is keenly aware of all the natural beauties of the state; of the romance and adventure which underlie so much of its history; and of all the economic, educational, and social advantages which operate to make it a wholly desirable place in which to live. Along with other educators she has advocated teaching to children the responsibilities of citizenship, but with more far-seeing wisdom than some, she has sensed that if children love

“the place where they live . . . care and responsibility for it will grow as a natural result.” With this ideal in view, she has written this series of sketches, drawing with a loving and appreciative touch vivid pictures of the red men, the adventurous explorers, the fur-traders, and the pioneers, and investing each bare statement of fact and narration of event with vitality and interest. She leaves us at the last page with a feeling that her Minnesota has become “our Minnesota.”